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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Senior Review Panel

NIC 02292-84
12 April 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Addenda to the Senior Review Panel's
Study on Historical Failures

1. Pursuant to your request today, this memorandum transmits several papers relating to the Panel's study of 16 December 1983 on intelligence judgments preceding significant historical failures. These are:

Tab A: Iran: (i) a copy of the aborted NIE on Iran of August 1978, and (ii) a copy of [redacted] memorandum to you of 6 January 1984, responding to your further questions.

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(It is hard not to think of Iran when considering an NIE on Mexico. Despite many differences in circumstances, there are also disquieting similarities: We did not know the non-Shah segment of Iran well enough. We do not adequately know in Mexico--as the draft NIE makes clear--the rural poor, the urban dispossessed, or the countryside generally. Nonetheless, we had, in the case of Iran, and have, in the case of Mexico, extraordinary confidence in linear projections of regime survivability, reckoning in both cases, the political opposition as diffuse, badly organized, and unlikely to prevail. Philosophic and religious differences underlay the power struggle between Shah and mullahs; economic crisis might well provide an organizing principle for a new power contest in Mexico. And in both cases US political prestige and economic interests were/are heavily engaged.)

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Tab B: Nicaragua: A memorandum of 12 April 1983 by Herb Rothenberg on Nicaraguan estimative turning points.

(How resistant would the Mexican political structure be to a Chamorro, or even to an Aquino?)

Tab C: Menges Study. [] notes on Cuba and Nicaragua, of 15 January 1982 which you wished to review.

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Tab D: A copy of the Panel's 16 December 1983 memorandum to you "Report on a Study of Intelligence Judgments Preceding Significant Historical Failures: The Hazards of Single-Outcome Forecasting."

(For reference. Its Tab C has our Cuba chapter; its Tab K has Iran; and Tab L, the nature of Somoza's opposition.)

FOR THE SENIOR REVIEW PANEL



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Attachments:
Tabs A thru D

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SRP/DCI:WmL:tb

Distribution:

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1 - DDCI (w/Tabs A & B Only)
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